The ' field-theory' is therefore, by Bertalanffy's own verdict, not an explanatory system-theory such as his organicism demands; though it would seem to be a useful system of analytic description of the phenomena of morphogenesis. And Bertalanffy remains in the end without any such dynamic theory as he rightly demands and aspires to.

K. Goldstein's Organismic or Holistic Doctrine

Let us turn to the latest and in some ways the most impressive exposition of the ateleological holistic doctrine.

Dr. Kurt Goldstein's recent book is impressive by reason of his open-minded treatment of the problem of the organism from a background of intensive study of human activities, especially activities deranged and compensatory, manifested by patients who have suffered injuries to the nervous system. For it is to be remembered that the medical observer, though handicapped by great restrictions upon the possibilities of experimental interference, attains in many cases to an intimacy of acquaintance with individual organisms which is not approached by any other biologist, not even by those whose lives are devoted to the study of the fruit-fly.

Goldstein insists much on the importance of the holistic viewpoint, and upon the inadequacy of all attempts to explain vital phenomena which do not start from and maintain this viewpoint. He rejects both causal (meaning strictly mechanistic) and teleological explanation and seems to favour what he calls ' acausality'. He is of the opinion that when the holistic or

standpoint is consistently maintained the need for teleological explanation disappears, This is very cavalier dismissal of teleological causation, and when we find that